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***West Mojave Route Network Project***  
***Scoping Report***

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***Appendix B***

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Scoping Meeting Materials

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## APPENDIX B

### SCOPING MEETING MATERIALS

This appendix displays some of the materials used for the West Mojave Route Network Project (Project) scoping meetings. Included are the presentations used at the September 27 and 29, 2011 open house scoping meetings, the presentation used at the January 26, 2012 travel designation workshop, a sample route network map, and a copy of the comment form provided at each scoping meeting. The January 26, 2012 presentation and route network map are examples of the materials used at the Travel Management Area-specific scoping workshops held in January and February 2012. The BLM catered each workshop to a specific Travel Management Area, but for brevity, only one presentation and map was included in this appendix.


### Scoping Meeting Presentations – September 27 and 29, 2011





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West Mojave Plan Amendment

Public Scoping Meeting  
Ridgecrest, California  
September 27, 2011

*California Desert District Office – Moreno Valley, California*



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**WELCOME !**

Why Are We Here ??



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California Desert District

## ***BLM Proposes to:***

### Reconsider Plan Level Decisions

- amend plan if needed

### Reconsider network of routes approved in WEMO (March 2006)

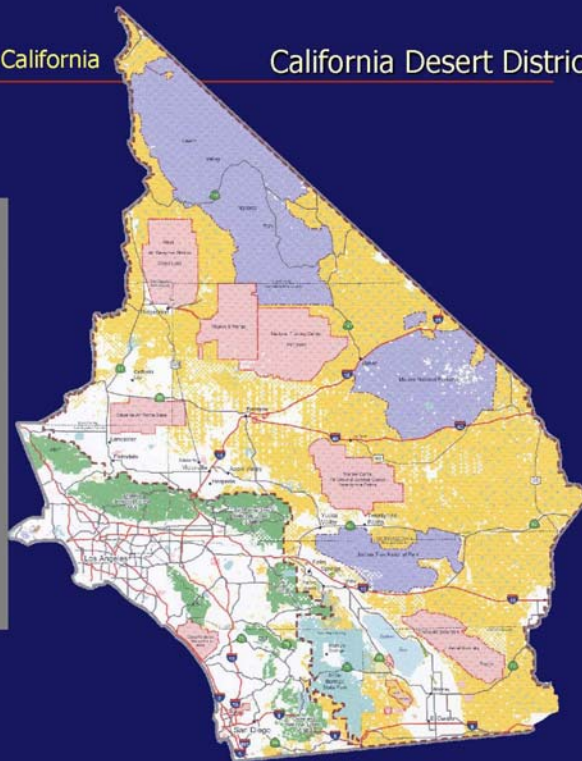
- consistent with travel management guidance



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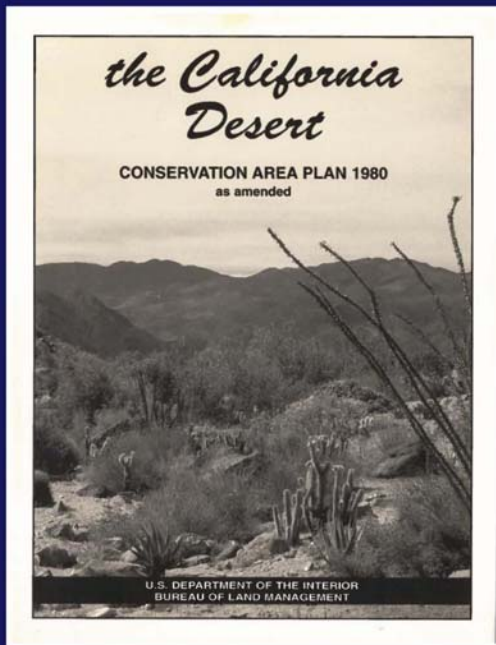
Designated by Congress as a National Conservation Area, this 25 million-acre expanse covers most of southeastern California -- almost a quarter of the entire state. Nearly half of its acreage is a desert conservation showcase managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).





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## 1982 Amendments

### Amendment 3

Motorized Vehicle Element

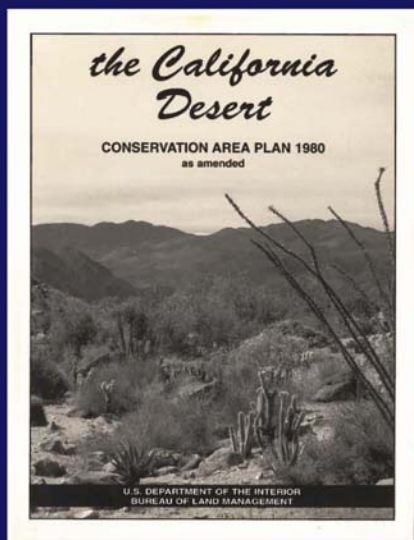
**43 CFR 8342.1 –**  
Designation Criteria  
(minimization criteria)



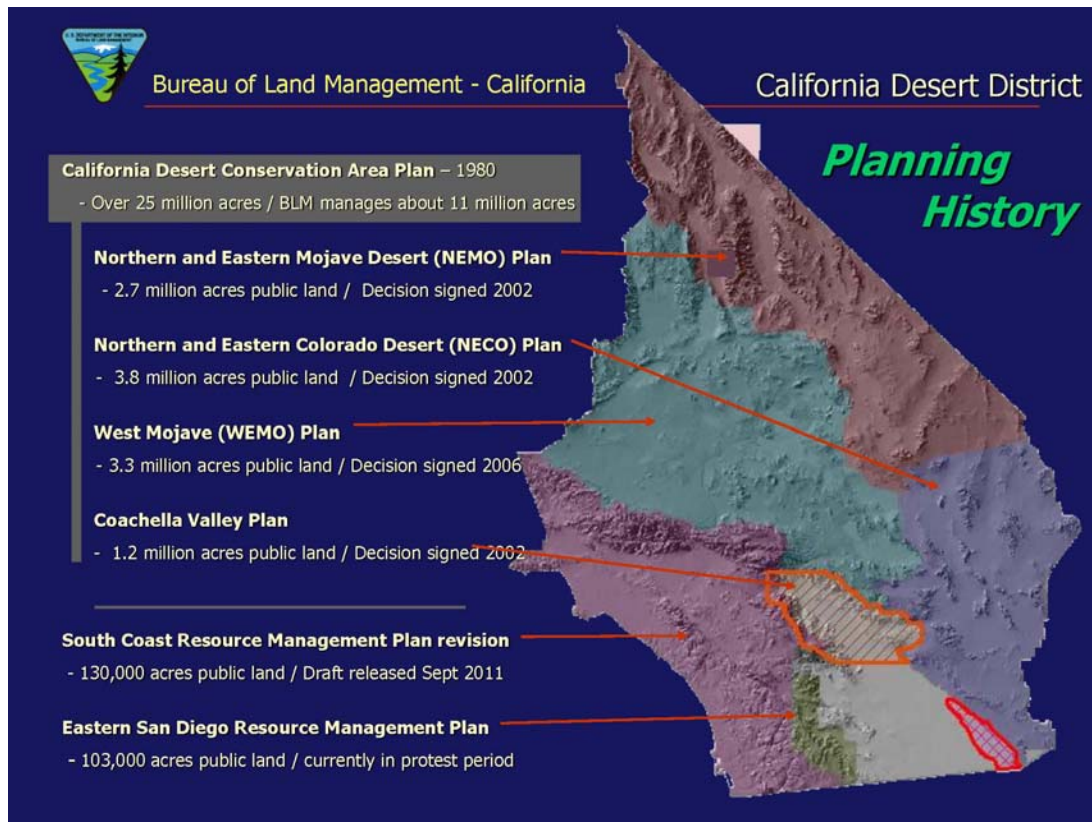
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## Goal in CDCA Plan 1982 Plan Amendments



Provide for  
constrained  
motorized vehicle  
access in a manner  
that balances the  
needs of all desert  
users, private  
landowners and  
other public  
resources



**Bureau of Land Management - California** **California Desert District**

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
California Desert District  
22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos  
Moreno Valley, CA 92553

January 2005

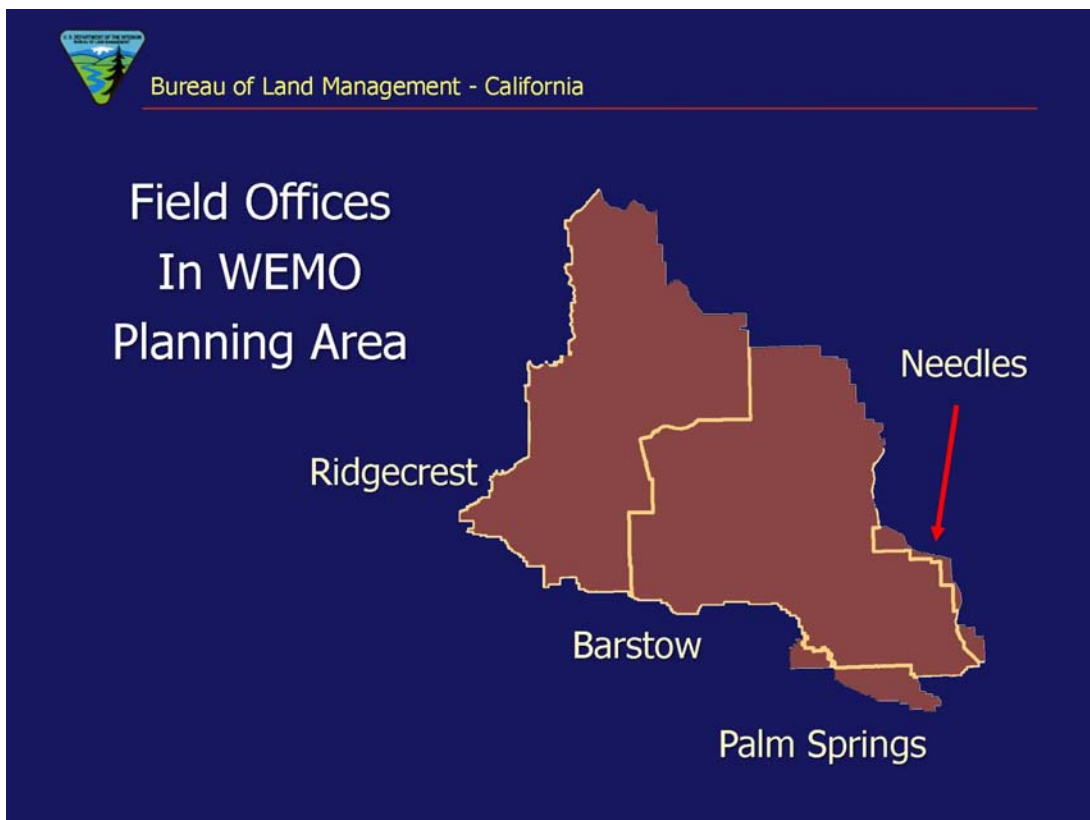
**Final Environmental Impact Report and Statement for the**

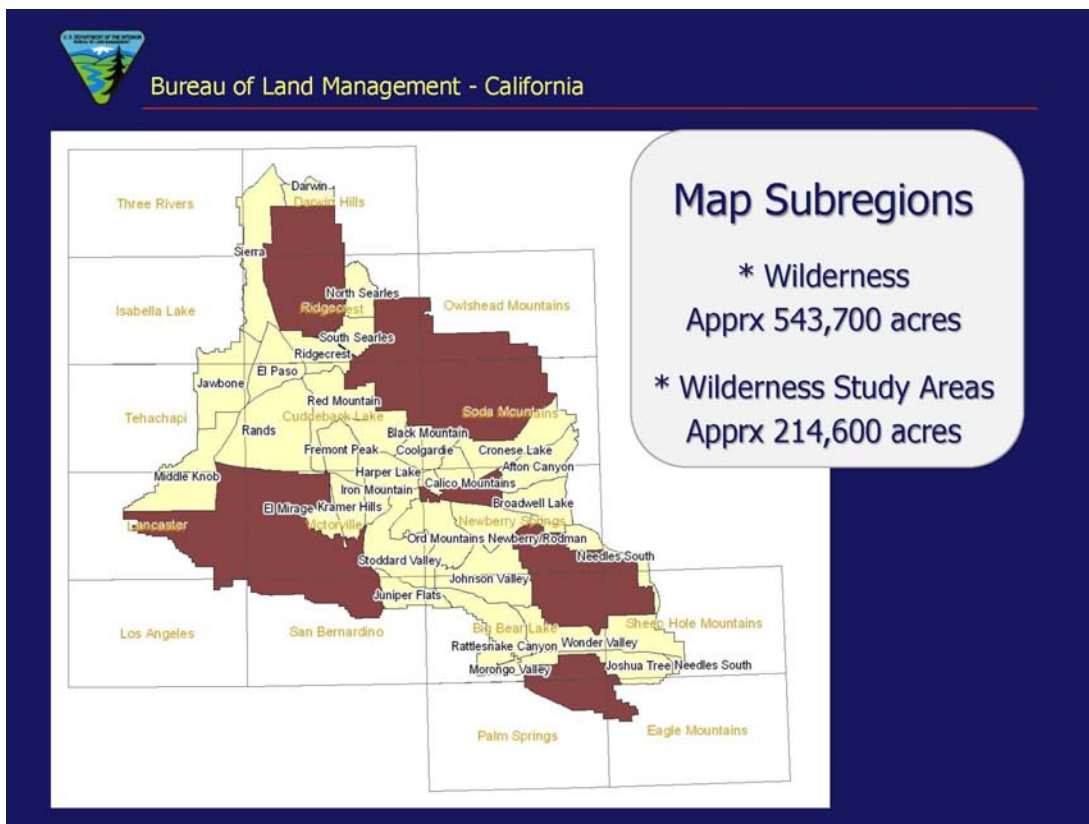
**West Mojave Plan**


A Habitat Conservation Plan and California Desert Conservation Area Plan Amendment  
Vol 1A

**Record of Decision – March 2006**

- \* 9.4 million acres
- \* 6.4 million acres public lands
- \* BLM Field Offices:  
Barstow  
Ridgecrest  
Needles  
Palm Springs





 Bureau of Land Management - California

Case03-05-cv-04884-SI Document243 Filed01/29/11 Page1 of 17

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, No. C 06-4884 SI  
Plaintiff, ORDER RE: REMEDY  
v.  
US BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT,  
Defendant.

The Court's September 28, 2009 Order Re: Summary Judgment Motions found that defendants violated the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA") and the Federal Land Policy Management Act ("FLPMA") in adopting the March 2006 Western Mojave management plan amendment ("2006 ROP"), but that the defendants did not violate the Endangered Species Act. After unsuccessful settlement talks, the parties agreed to a briefing schedule for determining the appropriate remedy in this matter, including the terms of a vacatur of the decision, the terms of any remand, and any injunctive relief during the remand period. The parties submitted full briefing, including exhibits and declarations in support of their respective positions, and on September 3, 2010, the Court held a hearing on plaintiffs' motion for partial vacatur and injunctive relief. Upon consideration of the voluminous record and the arguments of counsel at the hearing, the Court makes the following findings and enters this Order.

**BACKGROUND**

In the September 28, 2009 summary judgment order, the Court held that (1) the "decision tree" that the Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") used to designate Off-Highway Vehicle ("OHV") routes was flawed because it did not comply with regulations mandating that the BLM consider various

**Court Decisions**

Order Re:  
Summary Judgment Motions  
September 28, 2009

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Order Re: Remedy  
January 28, 2011



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## Court Mandated Plans

Route Signing Plan

Route Monitoring Plan

Route Maintenance and Kiosk Plan

Enforcement Plan



Bureau of Land Management - California

## Plan Implementation

1. Signing – Signing Completed July 28 2011

2. Maps – Subregion Maps Completed  
and Posted on Website



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

California

Search BLM

BLM > California > California Desert District

**West Mojave (WEMO) Plan Amendment Activity**

**BACKGROUND**

The **West Mojave Plan** is a federal land use plan amendment and habitat conservation plan that (1) presents a comprehensive strategy to conserve and protect the desert tortoise, the Mojave ground squirrel and over 100 other sensitive plants and animals and the natural communities of which they are a part, and (2) provides a streamlined program for complying with the requirements of the California and federal Endangered Species Acts (CESA and FESA, respectively).

The planning area covers 9.3 million acres in the western portion of the Mojave Desert in southern California covering parts of San Bernardino, Los Angeles, Kern, and Inyo Counties. This interspersed habitat conservation plan was prepared by the BLM in collaboration with the region's cities, counties, state and federal agencies. The plan applies to the 3.2 million acres of public lands and 2.9 million acres of private lands within the planning area, and would be consistent with both the resource management plans adopted by each of the region's five military bases and with the desert tortoise recovery plan.

The Record of Decision for the **West Mojave Plan / Amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan** was signed in March 2006.

The **Western Mojave Desert Off Road Vehicle Designation Project** is a CDCA Plan Amendment that adopts a network of motorized vehicle routes as a component of the CDCA Plan. The network provides access to nearly 3 million acres of public lands within the western Mojave Desert.

Beginning in November 1999, a WEMO Plan "Supergroup," consisting of representatives of over 100 jurisdictions, agencies and non-governmental agencies, and private individuals, established four task groups to prepare the WEMO Plan. This "supergroup" recommended a new on-the-ground field survey of OHV routes and route designations which resulted in the **Western Mojave Desert Off Road Vehicle Designation Project**. The Record of Decision for the Project was signed in June of 2003.

An amended **Biological Opinion** to the WEMO Plan from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was signed in December 2007.

**Court Actions**

[http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/cdd/west\\_mojave\\_wemo.html](http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/cdd/west_mojave_wemo.html)

In August of 2006, eleven environmental organizations sued the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

## Webpage

- \* Locator Map
- \* Subregion Maps
- \* Court Mandated Plans
- \* Quarterly Reports



Bureau of Land Management - California

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# NEPA Process

## Plan amendment - Route designation

### Two Options

1. Separate Environmental Documents
2. Combined Environmental Document



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## Comment Tables

1. Plan Amendment(s)
2. NEPA Process
3. Issues by Subregion
4. Issues by Values
5. Weighting Factors



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## Next Steps

1. Scoping Comments Due October 17, 2011
2. Follow-up Meetings by Subregion
3. Combining Subregions?

**Final Decisions Deadline**

Court Ordered – March 31, 2014

## Scoping Meeting Workshop Presentation – January 26, 2012

**West Mojave  
Travel Management Plan Scoping  
Juniper-Rattlesnake-  
Wonder V.-Joshua Tree Area**

*Thank you for coming!*

**Please...**

- Sign in at the table near the entrance
- Pick up copies of maps and information
- Pick up comment sheets with address info
- Provide comments to BLM tonight, or no later than...



**Scoping Period Ends – April 15, 2012**

( 1 )

## West Mojave Travel Management Plan Scoping Presentation Overview

- Project Purpose
- Scope of Travel Management Plans
- Issues to be Addressed
- Scoping and Project Schedule
- Commenting on Routes
- Documenting Information
- Next Steps and Closing Remarks



[ 2 ]

## West Mojave Travel Management Plan Scoping

### Project Purpose :

**Review & Designate a Route Network and a Viable Implementation Strategy in this area**

- Consistent with Route Designation Guidance
- Consistent with Adopted West Mojave Plan
- Address a Range of Recreational and Access Needs, Interests, and Opportunities
- Complement nearby BLM, other Agency and Private Land Needs, Interests, and Opportunities
- Address relevant West Mojave court issues



[ 3 ]

## West Mojave Travel Management Plan Scoping

### What are Travel Management Plans?

- Activity-Level Plans (like OHV or ACEC Plans)
- Designate routes in a “Travel Management Area” that is a portion of the West Mojave Area
- Travel Management Areas can be based on geography, issues, and/or network connectivity
- Include Mitigation Measures to minimize impacts
- Have Monitoring & Enforcement Strategies
- Designations may change as route conditions or access needs change based on Activity Plan



[ 4 ]

## West Mojave Travel Management Plan Scoping

### Why Travel Management Plans?

- Implementation Tool
- Flexibility
- May Change in Response to Changing Needs and Issues
- Remain Consistent with Goals & Objectives of that travel management planning area



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## West Mojave Travel Management Plan Scoping

### 5 Issues BLM Must Address

1. Existing Routes Language, West Mojave Wide
2. How the Required Route Designation Criteria are Applied
3. Expand Range of Alternatives
4. Clarify Baseline Conditions
5. Supplement Documentation or Analyses, and Mitigation Applied for Routes and Network



[ 6 ]

## West Mojave Travel Management Plan Scoping

### Meeting Purpose: How You Can Help Tonight

- Which Routes & Trails Better Serve Specific Needs?
- What Information Can You Give Us on the 5 Issues and Routes or Locations in this Area?  
Specificity helps (GPS or route number, name of species, spring, or destination, etc.)
- Can You Give Alternatives if You Identify issues?
- Can You Suggest Mitigation or Strategies to Minimize Impacts from a Route?



[ 7 ]

## West Mojave Travel Management Plan Scoping



### Subregion Overview Map

**Travel Mgt Area 3:**  
Juniper-Rattlesnake-  
Morongo Valley-  
Wonder Valley-  
Joshua Tree

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## West Mojave Travel Management Plan Scoping Schedule of Meetings

MTG	SUBREGIONS	LOCATION	MEETING DATE
1	I-15 to I-40: Afton, Broadwell, E. of Barstow	Barstow Field Office	January 9, 2012
2	N. of Ridgecrest: N. Searles, S. Searles, Darwin, Sierra	Kerr-McGee Center, Ridgecrest	January 18, 2012
3	S. and E. of SR 247: Juniper, Rattlesnake, Joshua Tree, Wonder Valley	Barstow Field Office	January 26, 2012
4	Jawbone, Middle Knob, Lancaster	Kerr-McGee Center, Ridgecrest	February 6, 2012
5	N. of I-15/SR 58: DWMA ACEC in Barstow FO (7 Subregions)	Barstow Field Office	February 9, 2012
6	S. of SR 58/W. of I-15: El Mirage, Kramer Hills, Iron Mtn	Barstow Field Office	February 14, 2012
7	Ridgecrest, El Paso, Red Mtn, Rand Mtns	Kerr-McGee Center, Ridgecrest	February 16, 2012
8	S. of I-40/E. of I-15: Pisgah, Ord Mtn, Newberry-Rodmans, Johnson Valley, Stoddard Valley	Barstow Field Office	February 21, 2012

{ 9 }

## West Mojave Travel Management Plan Scoping

### Meeting Stations: An Aid to Focus Comments

#### Discuss and Provide Comment on Specific Routes or Locations, & Possible Alternatives

- Needs Satisfied by Specific Routes or Locations
- Types of Recreational Use(s)
- Destination Locations
- Staging or Parking Areas
- Key Corridors
- Other Access Issues



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## West Mojave Travel Management Plan Scoping

### Comment on Criteria Issues, & Possible Avoidance & Mitigation Options

1. Soil, Water, Air, Cultural Issues
2. Wildlife and Habitat, T&E Species
3. Public Safety, Private Land, Authorized or Non-motorized User Conflicts, and Urban Interface Issues (e.g., Noise)
4. Sensitive/Designated Area (Wilderness, ACEC, OHV) Factors and Related Issues



[ 11 ]

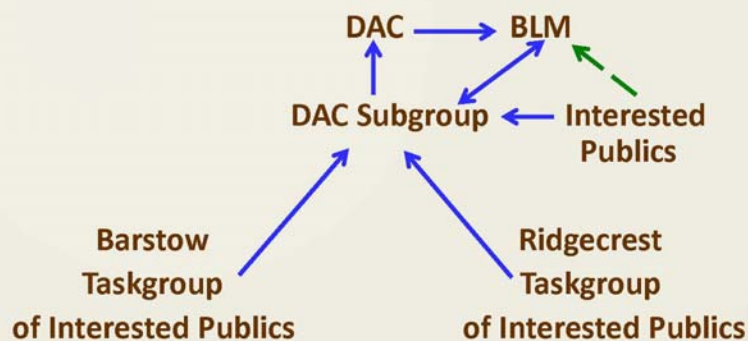
## West Mojave Travel Management Plan Scoping Recording Public Comments:

- Give Route Number, Location Name, and/or Map Location, if known
- If it is a specific route with no WEMO route #, ask a BLM data steward to get the number
- Indicate if it is a General Issue
- If a Site-Specific Issue, Conflict, or Opportunity, provide Area or Route Details, and why it is an issue
- Alternative, Avoidance or Mitigation Options
- Check Information for Accuracy



[ 12 ]

## West Mojave Travel Management Plan Scoping Desert Advisory Council (DAC) WEMO Route Network Project Subgroup



[ 13 ]

## West Mojave Travel Management Plan Scoping Thanks for Your Interest and Comments

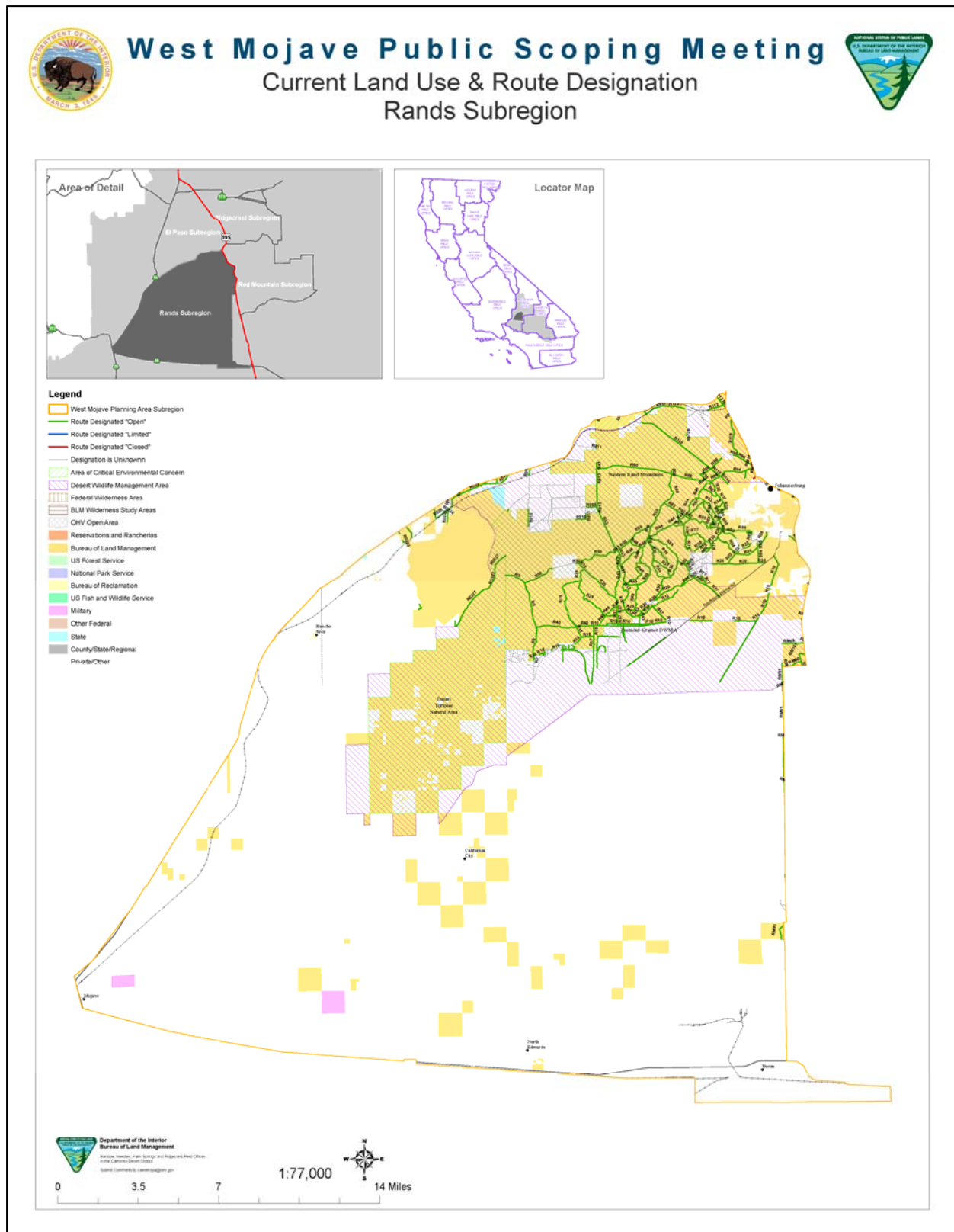
- You Can Provide Comments Tonight,
- Send in Comments by April 15, 2012 (mail or website), and
- Attend other scoping meetings to give additional comments,
- The Desert Advisory Council Subgroup will be providing another opportunity for public input
- Draft Travel Mgt Plans due out later this year



Deadline for all Final Plan Decisions  
is March 31, 2014

[ 14 ]

## Travel Designation Workshop Route Network Map – Rands Subregion



## West Mojave Project Comment Form



**Bureau of Land Management  
Open House Public Meetings  
West Mojave Route Designations**

**COMMENTS**

Note: Before including your address, telephone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Thank you for participating in today's Public Scoping Meeting on the  
WEMO Route Designations  
Your comments on the scope and focus of the environmental review are encouraged.

Name (please print legibly): \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

CN # ☐ \_\_\_\_\_  
Staff Use

**COMMENTS:**

Map or Subregion Name and Number \_\_\_\_\_

Route #, if known \_\_\_\_\_ Grid Location \_\_\_\_\_ Point of Interest \_\_\_\_\_

General Comment ☐ Site- or Route-Specific Comment ☐

What is the Issue/Concern/Opportunity?

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Why did you make this Comment and Do you have any additional Suggestions to Address it?

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Turn in Comments during this meeting or  
Send comments to: West Mojave Route Network Project, Attn: Charlee Christie, WEMO Routes Project Team,  
22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553 or by e-mail at [cawemopa@blm.gov](mailto:cawemopa@blm.gov)